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PORT OF LIVERPOOL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR

1949.



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PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY OF LIVERPOOL.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1949

BY THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

This is the 77th Annual Report on the work of the Liverpool Port Health Authority.

Circular 104/49 of the Ministry of Health, dated 15th November, 1949, directs that "The Authority will instruct their Medical Officer of Health to prepare his Annual Report for 1949 on the lines indicated in Memorandum 302/SA."

Memorandum 302/SA reads as follows:—

PORT HEALTH AND RIPARIAN AUTHORITIES.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

(1) Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, provides that a Medical Officer of Health shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, make an Annual Report to the Authority up to the end of December on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration, and the vital statistics of the district, containing, in addition to any such matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, such information as may from time to time be required by the Minister.

(2) Article 27 (18) of the Regulations provides that the Sanitary Inspector shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars:—

- (a) The number and nature of inspections made by him during the year ;
- (b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices ;
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.

(3) The Records of the Authority should accordingly be kept in such form as to enable their Medical Officer of Health to prepare his Report without delay at the close of each year. The Report should be in the form and sequence indicated herein—the lettering of the tables being adhered to.

(4) The Medical Officer of Health should include in his Report any comments which he may think desirable

- (1) under the several heads indicated herein, and
- (2) in regard to the need for any developments or extensions which, in his opinion, are necessary to render the work of the Authority fully efficient.

(5) In the case of those Ports which are approved under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens, the Medical Officer of Health should report generally upon the work of medical inspection of aliens.

The above-mentioned directions have been followed in so far as the information asked for is available.

WATER SUPPLY.

Source of Water Supply for

(a) THE PORT.

The water used in the port on the east side of the River Mersey is supplied by the Liverpool Corporation; on the west side of the river by the Birkenhead and Wallasey Corporations and the West Cheshire Water Board.

(b) SHIPPING.

Vessels in dock are supplied by hose from hydrants. A constant check is kept by the Port Health Inspectors on the cleanliness and condition of ships' drinking water tanks. There are no water boats in use.

(c) AIRPORT.

Water supplied by the Liverpool Corporation. Aircraft are supplied from taps at the Airport.

PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 AND 1945.

The routine for carrying out the measures of the Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945, were fully detailed in the Annual Report for the years 1938 and 1947: these remain the same and consequently are omitted.

BOARDING LAUNCH "MOYLES."

On June 6th the work of the m.l. "Moyles" was taken over by the Fireboat m.l. "William Gregson".

The m.l. "Moyles" was built in 1927 for the Port Health Authority and, except for overhauls and minor repairs, was on continuous service for twenty-two years.

Four of the original crew of the "Moyles" were still serving in her when she was taken out of commission.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

The port is divided into four districts. A Port Health inspector, a rat searcher, and a rat catcher are allotted to each district: the rat searcher is responsible for searching for evidence of rats, and the rat catcher for obtaining samples of the rat population both in the ships and on the quays of their district. Each rodent operative is given specific tasks daily, to be carried out at set times, and the work is checked by cross visits from a Supervising Rodent Operative, and the Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.

STEPS TAKEN FOR THE THE DETECTION OF RODENT PLAGUE.

(a) *In Ships in Port.*

Every foreign-going ship entering the port is visited by a Port Health inspector and a rat searcher as soon as possible after docking. Traps are set in all ships from "infected ports," and in all foreign-going ships when rat evidence is reported, or time in port permits.

Coastal shipping and barges are visited and searched periodically. All rats trapped are sent to the City Bacteriologist for examination. Any rat suspected of being plague-infected, or any rat found dead without marks of violence is dipped in paraffin, specially labelled "Suspected Rat"—"Urgent," and taken immediately to the City Bacteriologist for examination.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the Port.

Traps are set daily on quays and wharves, and in warehouses, canteens, stores, grain mills, etc., within the area of the port. All rats trapped are sent to the City Bacteriologist for examination.

MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT THE PASSAGE OF RATS BETWEEN SHIP AND SHORE.

All foreign-going ships, whether arriving from abroad, or proceeding coastwise, are visited on arrival by a Port Health inspector, and orders are given to fit rat guards on all moorings. Subsequent visits are made to see that the order has been carried out. Rat guards may be of sheet metal at least three feet in diameter, with sharp edged circumference, or the rope may be parcelled with canvas, or sacking coated with tar. The tar must be kept in a sticky condition. Ships' officers are advised not to leave cargo nets hanging between the ship and shore at night.

MEASURES OF DERATISATION OF

(a) Ships.

- (1) Routine trapping by Port Health rat catchers.
- (2) Trapping and/or poisoning by rat catchers employed by the shipping companies.
- (3) Fumigation with Hydro-Cyanic acid gas or Sulphur dioxide.

(b) Premises in vicinity of Docks and Quays.

- (1) Routine trapping by Port Health rat catchers.
- (2) Routine trapping and poisoning by rat catchers employed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, who set approximately 160 traps and 155 poison baits daily.
- (3) Trapping and poisoning by private rat-catching firms employed by shipping companies and warehouse owners.

MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RAT PREVALENCE IN SHIPS.

- (1) Enquiries and search by Port Health inspectors.
- (2) Routine searching by Port Health rat searchers, who search all foreign-going ships on arrival, and also make periodic searches during the discharge of cargo.
- (3) Any ship for which a deratisation or deratisation exemption certificate has been applied for, is searched throughout when the cargo spaces are empty.
- (4) Immediate investigation of reports from ships' masters and other officers, dock workers, and privately employed rat catchers.

RAT PROOFING.

(a) To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., rat proof?

The general condition is good, although considerable reconstruction is needed after bomb damage.

(b) ACTION TAKEN TO EXTEND RAT PROOFING

(1) *In Ships.*

When temporary or permanent rat harbourage is discovered in ships, the Master and the owners (or agents) are informed and advised how to eliminate it: every effort is made to see that vessels are made reasonably ratproof before a deratisation or deratisation exemption certificate is issued.

(2) *On Shore.*

A constant survey is made of all shore premises, and no stores, gear, nor accumulations of refuse are allowed to remain undisturbed. Owners of old and useless gear are advised to dispose of it as soon as possible; refuse and sweepings are removed without delay; machinery and all wanted gear is stowed and raised at least 18 inches from the ground; chains, blocks, etc., are hung up; that temporary buildings are built on piers, runways concreted up, and stores, and enclosures made ratproof.

All mills and granaries on the dock estate were surveyed for rat infestation during the year, and in only one was there pronounced evidence of rat infestation. A notice was sent to the owners, enumerating the rat-proofing requirements, and since this work has been carried out, the infestation has been greatly reduced.

Defective drains were found in a factory which manufactures animal feeding stuffs, and broken and uneven setts outside the building caused water and blood to lodge. On advice from the Port Health Authority, the drains were repaired, properly fitting lids and manholes provided, and the outside ground made impervious by covering with concrete.

INSPECTION OF DOCK PREMISES.

The following defects and nuisances were dealt with on dock premises :—

Description of Premises	Defective or Inadequate					Structural Defects	Rat Harborage	Rat Infestation	Accumulated Refuse	Noxious Effluvia	Dirty Conditions	Verminous Conditions	Damp Conditions	Water Supply	Miscellaneous
	Lighting	Heating	Ventilation	W.C. Accommodation	Drainage										
Dock Sheds	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	4	39	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canteens ...	—	—	—	—	24	52	2	10	7	—	2	2	1	—	1
Factories ...	—	—	—	4	—	11	4	5	2	—	2	1	—	—	—
Quays ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	3	97	—	—	—	—	—	4
Roadways ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offices ...	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railway Premises ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warehouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mills ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Latrines ...	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	2
Lairages ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	10	30	65	22	25	159	—	15	3	1	—	7

A general survey of 36 factories and workshops on the Dock Estate was carried out, a description of the premises, number of persons employed, and sanitary arrangements being reported on. Approximately half of the number of premises surveyed (18) were found to possess reasonably good sanitary arrangements, while those of the remainder were barely adequate.

A general survey of dock sheds was carried out. A survey of dock latrines and dock canteens was carried out in 1948.

REPATRIATES.

During the year the Port Health inspectors carried on the work of meeting and accommodating non-regular army families and assisted-passage repatriates arriving in this country from abroad. This work was formerly carried out by the City Public Assistance Department and assigned to the Port Health Authority during 1948. A full description of the procedure was given in the Annual Report for 1948. Accommodation was provided at Ministry of Health Hostels under the supervision of the Port Health Authority at 51, Croxteth Road, and "Fernlea", Quarry Road, Woolton, up to October, 1949, when notice was received from the Town Clerk that these hostels were to be de-requisitioned.

The following table shows the number of repatriates dealt with by officers of the Authority to the end of September, 1949:—

Date 1949	Ship	From	Repatriates Interviewed	Accommodated			Accommodation not Required
				Men	Women	Children	
n. 17	Caledonia ...	Bombay	11	2	1	1	7
n. 22	Empire Halladale ...	Singapore	3	—	—	—	3
b. 26	Circassia	Bombay	12	1	1	2	8
r. 18	Orduna	Singapore	5	—	—	—	5
r. 29	Ascanius	Port Said & Piraeus	4	2	2	—	—
r. 2	Devonshire ...	Singapore	5	2	2	1	—
r. 16	Empress of Australia ...	Port Said	3	1	1	1	—
y 19	Empress of Australia ...	Port Said	5	—	—	—	5
y 23	Empress of Australia ...	Port Said	4	—	—	—	4
pt. 29	Cilicia	Bombay	2	—	—	—	2
		TOTAL ...	54	8	7	5	34

The following Jamaicans were accommodated at the request of the Colonial Office, with permission of the Ministry of Health :—

Date 1949	Ship	From	Repatriates Interviewed	Accommodated			Accommodation not Required
				Men	Women	Children	
June 25	Georgie	W. Indies	—	16	12	6	—
		TOTAL ...	—	16	12	6	—

The following homeless people were accommodated at the request of the City Chief Welfare Officer, with permission of the Ministry of Health :—

Aug. 4	Empire Halladale ...	Hong Kong	—	—	6	1	—
Sept. 29	—	—	—	—	4	9	—
		TOTAL ...	—	—	10	10	—

ANTHRAX.

No cases of anthrax were reported during the year.

TYPHOID FEVER.

5.2.1949. S.S. "HUBERT".

Two members of the crew were removed to hospital on arrival at Liverpool suffering from Typhoid fever. On 7th February, another member of the crew was removed to hospital, and subsequently the diagnosis of Typhoid fever was confirmed.

Details of Voyage.

Port.	Arrived.	Left.	Remarks.
Liverpool	—	5.11.48	
Leixoes	9.11.48	10.11.48	
Teneriffe	14.11.48	14.11.48	
Pernambuco ...	24.11.48	2.12.48	
Maceio... ..	3.12.48	4.12.48	

Port.	Arrived.	Left.	Remarks.
Cabadelo	5.12.48	8.12.48	
Natal	8.12.48	9.12.48	
Fort Aleza	10.12.48	13.12.48	
Tutoya	14.12.48	16.12.48	
Maranham	17.12.48	18.12.48	
Para	19.12.48	21.12.48	} Crew allowed ashore, and fresh water and vegetables taken.
Manaos	26.12.48	29.12.48	
Para	1. 1.49	2. 1.49	No one ashore. No stores taken.
Tutoya	4. 1.49	5. 1.49	No one ashore. No stores taken.
Fort Aleza	6. 1.49	6. 1.49	No one ashore. No stores taken.
Para	9. 1.49	10. 1.49	No one ashore. No stores taken.
Breves	11. 1.49	14. 1.49	Crew allowed ashore. No stores taken.
Para	14. 1.49	15. 1.49	No one ashore. Fresh vegetables and fruit taken.
St. Vincent... ..	23. 1.49	23. 1.49	
Teneriffe	26. 1.49	27. 1.49	
Lisbon... ..	30. 1.49	31. 1.49	
Leixoes	1. 2.49	1. 2.49	
Liverpool	5. 2.49	—	

Precautionary Measures at Liverpool.

1. Bacteriological examination of the ship's water supply, which proved negative.
2. Disinfection of cabins, bedding, etc.
3. Notification of the Medical Officers of Health of the destination of crew and passengers.
4. Enquiries as to the origin of fresh fruit and vegetables purchased during the voyage: these had all been consumed by the time the vessel arrived at Liverpool.

No further cases occurred.

4.4.49. H.T. "DEVONSHIRE" @ SINGAPORE.

One R.A.F. passenger was removed to the R.A.F. Hospital at Weeton, near Blackpool, suffering from Typhoid fever. The usual enquiries and disinfection were carried out.

No further cases occurred.

26.7.49. S.S. "MELAMPUS" @ MACASSAR.

One member of the crew was removed to hospital on arrival at Liverpool suffering from Typhoid fever.

No further cases occurred.

9.8.1949. S.S. "CALEDONIA" @ BOMBAY.

One member of the crew, a Goanese steward, was removed to hospital suffering from Typhoid fever.

HYGIENE OF CREW SPACES.

During the year careful attention has been paid to the inspection of crew spaces by the Port Health inspectors. Vessels entering the port are visited as soon as possible after docking, usually in the following order:—

- (a) Ships known to have, or suspected of having, infectious sickness on board.
- (b) Ships from infected ports.
- (c) Ships from foreign ports.
- (d) Foreign-going ships from home ports.
- (e) Coasters.

Enquiries are made concerning the health of the crew, the occurrence of any sickness during the voyage, the source of water supply, the condition of all tanks and bilges, the condition of storerooms, presence of rats, and whether any sick or dead rats have been found. In the case of foreign-going ships, the deratisation or deratisation exemption certificate is inspected.

After making these enquiries the Port Health inspector, usually accompanied by a ship's officer, visits and inspects the crew's quarters. Particular attention is paid to cleanliness, lighting, ventilation, heating, structural defects, dampness and presence of, and, or harbourage for vermin.

The attention of the officer is drawn to any defects that are found, and a request made that they should be remedied. A written memorandum enumerating the defects is left with the officer on board, and when necessary a letter is also addressed to the shipowner or agents. These instructions are generally carried out by the shipping company or agents concerned, without difficulty.

Not only has there been a steady improvement in the standard of accommodation in ships of all nationalities, but of late years there has been a very marked willingness by owners and agents to have defects put right, and co-operate with the Port Health Authority in every way possible. When a letter is sent concerning defects or nuisances, a reply is received by return stating what action is being taken and the name of the contractor. The inspector revisits the vessel from time to time and notes the progress of work and when the defects have been made good. If the contractors' work is not satisfactory, the shipowner or agent is informed. Whenever it was not practicable to abate a nuisance during the vessel's stay here, and the vessel was proceeding to another British port, notification was sent to the Medical Officer of Health concerned.

CANAL BOATS. Public Health Act, 1936, Part X.

A Port Health inspector is engaged one day each week on the inspection of canal boats plying in the river or docks.

Number of boats inspected	...	...	...	...	395
Number of boats inspected for registration	...				1
Number of boats found with contraventions	...				17

EXAMINATION OF SHIPS CARRYING PILGRIMS.

One vessel was inspected and certified as complying with the requirements of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926, for the carriage of pilgrims.

PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930.

Nineteen notices were issued during the year. Eleven birds of the parrot species were destroyed under the supervision of officers of the Port Health Authority. Ninety birds were imported under permit to Zoological Societies.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934.

In accordance with the above regulations, notices were erected at suitable sites on the Cheshire and Lancashire sides of the River Mersey stating that the Order made under the above regulations by the Liverpool Port Health Authority on 2nd February, 1939, and amending Order, 14th June, 1949, is still operative, and that mussels and cockles taken from the prescribed area are so polluted as to be unfit for human consumption, that the "prescribed area" means the foreshore of the River Mersey on the Cheshire side thereof between the Manchester Ship Canal and the Red Stones at Hoylake, the western limit being the boundary of the Customs Port of Liverpool, and that a person shall not sell, or expose or distribute or offer for sale, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale for human consumption any mussels or cockles taken from within the prescribed area.

In spite of these notices, some fishermen and holiday makers were found collecting mussels or cockles from the foreshore, but claimed that these were for bait or poultry foods: where possible these statements were checked.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

Following representation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, a discussion took place to explore the possibilities of erecting a suitable cleansing station for shellfish in this area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No case of either Smallpos, Plague, Cholera, Yellow fever, or Typhus was landed at Liverpool during the year, and none occurred in Liverpool-bound ships.

No rodent plague was discovered either in ships or among the rat population ashore. Two suspected rats proved on examination to be negative.

The number of ships visited by the Assistant Port Medical Officers was 1,070, of which 850 were from infected ports. Of the vessels boarded in the river 114 were bound for Manchester.

Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year 1949.

CLASS OF VESSELS	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer	By the Sanitary Inspector				
SAILING FOREIGN—	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Steamers ...	4,929	10,247,304	1,070	3,154	643	621	—	183
Motor ...				1,408	213	210	—	
Sailing ...				1	—	—	—	
Fishing ...				—	—	—	—	
TOTAL FOREIGN...	4,929	10,247,304	1,070	4,563	856	831	—	183
SAILING COASTWISE—								
Steamers ...	6,989	3,295,880	—	238	19	18	—	2
Motor ...				136	6	6	—	
Sailing ...				4	1	1	—	
Fishing ...				—	—	—	—	
TOTAL COASTWISE	6,989	3,295,880	—	378	26	25	—	2
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	11,918	13,543,184	1,070	4,941	882	856	—	185

Figures in columns 1 and 2 supplied by H.M. Collector of Customs for this Port.

Character of Trade of Port.

The Port of Liverpool trades with all parts of the world, and almost every conceivable kind of cargo is carried by ships arriving in the Mersey.

Passenger Traffic during 1949.

No. of Passengers ...	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Tourist Class.	Transmigrants.
Inwards ...	28,172	6,200	557	26,162	523
Outwards ...	37,256	8,382	606	30,651	604

MALARIA.

During the year, 191 new cases of malarial fever were notified, which were either landed in Liverpool or had recovered abroad, in 86 vessels.

The names and addresses of the patients, with particulars of the treatment given, together with the movements of the vessels, were forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of infectious disease *landed from vessels* arriving in the Port of Liverpool and those occurring in Liverpool bound ships which were disposed of *prior to the arrival of the* vessels at the port, are shown in the following tables:—

Cases of infectious sickness landed from vessels.

Diseases.	No. of Cases during 1949.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases in previous 5 yrs
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Plague	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	1
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	2	—	2	17
Enteric Fever	3	9	9	10
Diphtheria	—	4	4	11
Measles and German Measles	8	2	8	55
Chickenpox	4	7	9	31
Tuberculosis... ..	81	11	40	179
Pneumonia	2	8	10	23
Dysentery	5	—	4	14
Malaria	6	23	25	52
Mumps	—	—	—	41
Poliomyelitis	2	—	1	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	1
	113	64	102	539

**Cases of infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage
but disposed of prior to arrival.**

Diseases.	No. of cases during 1949.		No. of vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases in previous 5 yrs
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Plague	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	6
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2
Enteric Fever	—	2	2	5
Diphtheria	1	1	2	3
Measles and German Measles	23	1	12	34
Chickenpox	11	3	8	16
Tuberculosis... ..	2	12	14	13
Pneumonia	2	7	8	9
Malaria	45	117	61	251
Mumps	3	3	6	7
Poliomyelitis	1	1	2	3
Dysentery	48	2	3	23
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	—
	136	150	119	372

There were 191 cases of venereal disease reported on board 108 vessels arriving in the port during the year. These were referred, where circumstances required, for treatment at the Seamen's Dispensary.

DANGEROUS DRUGS.

During the year 81 certificates authorising the purchase of scheduled dangerous drugs were issued under the Dangerous Drugs (No. 3 Regulation), 1923, amending the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1921, regulation 15 of which is as follows:—

“If a foreign ship in any port in Great Britain requires to obtain a supply of any of the drugs in order to complete the necessary equipment of the ship, the Master of the ship is authorised to purchase and be in possession of such quantity of any of the drugs as may be certified by the Medical Officer of Health of the Port where the ship is (or in his absence by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health of the Port) to be necessary for the purpose, the quantity not to exceed what is required for the use of the ship until it reaches its home port. The certificate given by the Medical Officer or Assistant Medical Officer of Health of the Port shall be marked by the supplier with the date of the supply and shall be retained by him and kept for inspection.”

INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION OF PARIS, 1926.

ARTICLE 28.

During the year, 178 fumigations were carried out for the purpose of obtaining deratisation certificates and in addition 519 vessels were granted deratisation exemption certificates, making a total of 697 examinations under Article 28.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague-“ Infected ” or “ Suspected ” Vessels or on vessels from Plague-Infected Ports during the year 1949.

Total Vessels Arriving	No. Fumigated with SO ₂	No. of Rats Killed	No. Fumigated with HCN	No. of Rats Killed	No. Fumigated with both HCN & SO ₂	No. of Rats Killed	No. of such vessels on which Trapping, etc., was employed	No. of Rats Killed	No. of such vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out
850*	5	18 rats 11 mice	67	646 rats 146 mice	1	Nil	655	663 rats 146 mice	68

* Including 114 vessels bound for Manchester.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1949.

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	Number of Deratisation Certificates issued after Fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.	TOTAL	No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
		H.C.N.	Sulphur	H.C.N. and Sulphur				
Up to 300 Tons ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	12
From 301 to 1,000 Tons ...	60	2	2	1	—	5	55	60
From 1,001 to 3,000 Tons ...	146	35	2	1	—	38	108	146
From 3,001 to 10,000 Tons ...	455	114	8	—	—	122	333	455
Over 10,000 Tons ...	24	12	1	—	—	13	11	24
TOTALS ...	697	163	13	2	—	178	519	697

Number and species of rats caught, in the City and Port of Liverpool during the year 1949.

1949	Warehouses		Sewers		Other Places		Total		Ships		Quays		Other Sources		Total	
	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown
January	120	146	—	675	—	26	120	847	212	—	46	7	22	14	280	21
February	292	109	—	607	1	34	293	750	176	—	78	2	43	25	297	27
March ...	202	162	—	682	5	27	207	871	158	—	68	2	45	32	271	34
April ...	367	272	—	665	—	48	367	985	160	—	61	3	25	9	246	12
May ...	186	175	—	841	1	78	187	1,094	182	—	93	5	48	18	323	23
June ...	214	134	—	825	2	24	216	983	158	—	66	4	41	9	265	13
July ...	239	160	—	939	—	59	239	1,158	136	—	100	2	74	17	310	19
August	227	153	—	829	3	39	230	1,021	267	—	93	6	30	5	390	11
September	356	128	—	828	1	39	357	995	106	—	80	7	79	16	265	23
October	233	240	—	1,070	—	92	233	1,402	239	—	110	6	81	14	430	20
November	192	243	—	923	—	36	192	1,202	380	—	125	1	39	28	544	29
December	171	111	—	753	—	54	171	918	93	—	84	2	60	14	237	16
TOTAL	2,799	2,033	—	9,637	13	556	2,812	12,226	2,267	—	1,004	47	587	201	3,858	248

Number and Species of Rats examined or destroyed in the City and Port of Liverpool during the year 1949.

1949.		Examined (City).		Destroyed (City).		Examined (Port).		Destroyed (Port).		Total Caught
		Black.	Brown.	Black.	Brown.	Black.	Brown.	Black.	Brown.	City and Port.
										Black and Brown.
January	...	11	76	109	771	116	19	164	2	1,268
February	...	40	94	253	656	163	27	134	—	1,367
March	...	26	120	181	751	154	25	117	9	1,383
April	...	29	113	338	872	116	11	130	1	1,610
May	...	16	130	171	964	180	19	143	4	1,627
June	...	25	115	191	868	129	13	136	—	1,477
July	...	16	110	223	1,048	186	15	124	4	1,726
August	...	11	88	219	933	167	8	223	3	1,652
September	...	16	75	341	920	193	22	72	1	1,640
October	...	13	110	220	1,292	231	18	199	2	2,085
November	...	21	112	171	1,090	215	16	329	13	1,967
December	...	4	100	167	818	165	16	72	—	1,342
TOTAL	...	228	1,243	2,584	10,983	2,015	209	1,843	39	19,144

Rats destroyed during 1919.

(1) In vessels :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Black	212	176	158	160	182	158	136	267	106	239	380	93	2,267
Brown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Species not recorded ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rats examined ...	48	44	58	41	50	34	59	62	41	64	55	35	591
Rats found infected with Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Black	68	121	113	86	141	107	174	123	159	191	164	144	1,591
Brown	21	27	34	12	23	13	19	11	23	20	29	16	248
Species not recorded ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rats examined ...	87	146	121	86	149	108	142	113	174	185	176	146	1,633
Rats found infected with Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of Mice destroyed in vessels 328
 Do. do. do. on quays 316
 Do. do. examined from vessels and quays 327

The combined returns of all rats and mice caught and destroyed by shipping firms employing their own rat-catchers, by rat catching companies, and by the Public Health Authority, during the year 1949, are as follows:—

	Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
PORT—				
In vessels	3,195	328		
On quays	1,839	316		
			5,034	644
CITY—				
In warehouses	4,832	2,200		
In sewers and from other sources ...	10,206	582		
			15,038	2,782
		TOTAL ...	20,072	3,426

Number of Visits to Vessels by Rat Catchers...	...	...	6,246
Do. do. do. Rat Searchers	...	...	5,176
Do. do. Quays, Sheds , etc., by Inspectors	...	...	5,535
Do. do. do. do. Rat Searchers..	...	...	2,734
Do. do. do. do. Rat Catchers ...	...	...	21,775

Inspection of Shipping.

Year 1949.

Nationality							Visits	Re-Visits	Total
British	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,861	875	4,736
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	...	...	245	17	262
Swedish	...	...	...	...	...	...	174	3	177
Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	5	155
American	...	...	...	...	...	...	149	2	151
Danish	...	...	...	...	...	...	109	7	116
Panama	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	6	55
Finnish	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	1	42
Italian	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	9	34
Spanish	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	4	33
Greek	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	10	26
French	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	—	22
Belgian	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	1	16
Brazilian	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
German	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	—	10
Russian	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	9
Argentine	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	9
Polish	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	8
Yugo-Slavian	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Egyptian	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Turkish	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Portuguese	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Costa Rica	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total							4,941	953	5,894

Summary of Insanitary Conditions during the year 1949.

Class of Vessels	Number Inspected	Number in which Nuisances were found	Per cent.
SAILING FOREIGN—			
Steamers	3,154	643	20.39
Motor	1,408	213	15.13
Sailing	1	—	—
Total	4,563	856	18.76
SAILING COASTWISE—			
Steamers	238	19	7.98
Motor	136	6	4.41
Sailing	4	1	25.00
Total	378	26	6.88

Nationality						Number Inspected.	Number in which Nuisances were found
British	...	...	...	...	...	3,861	815
Foreign	...	...	...	...	...	1,080	67
Total						4,941	882

Nuisances found in Vessels.

Defects of Original Construction (a)	Per cent. of Total Defects	Structural Defects through wear and tear (b)	Per cent. of Total Defects	Dirt, and other conditions prejudicial to health (c)	Per cent. of Total Defects
6	0.06	299	3.05	9,509	96.89

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

The following table gives the total number of aliens arriving in the Port of Liverpool during 1949, and the number of each of the categories under which alien passengers are classified by the Immigration Department of the Home Office :—

Total aliens	Transmigrants	Residents returning	In transit
11,299	Nil	217	2,548
Visitors of 6 months or less		Diplomats and persons on Foreign Govt. Missions	Seamen
On holiday, tourist, &c.	On Business		
6,804	367	78	52
Seamen under Contract to join ships in British Waters		Ministry of Labour Permits	Other Aliens
208		177	848

Total number of vessels carrying Alien passengers	...	2,904
Number of Vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector...		199
Number of Aircraft dealt with by the Medical Inspector		11

Medical Inspection of Aliens. Year 1949.

	TOTAL.	Number Inspected by the Medical Inspector.	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medical Inspector.	CERTIFICATES ISSUED					
				Lunatic Idiot or M.D.	Undesirable for medical reasons.	Physically incapacitated.	Suffering from acute infectious disease.	Landing necessary for adequate medical examination.	Transmits.
(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port ...	11,299	6,923	283	2	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer	159	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Transmigrants ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Aliens arriving at the Port ...	11,458	6,923	283	2	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION.

Throughout the year 1949 the inspection of foodstuffs has been carried out in accordance with the various Regulations governing imported foods.

On the 20th March 1949, the Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) Regulations, 1949, came into operation. These Regulations, Parts II and V of which govern the importation, examination, sampling, transport and handling of whalemeat and whalemeat products imported into England and Wales for sale for human consumption, are enforced by Port Health Authorities within their districts, and are additional to the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48, Part II.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48.

The difficulties referred to in the previous Annual Report dealing with importations of meat products from overseas not bearing a recognised official certificate, have been partly overcome.

Sausage casings from Hong Kong have been correctly certificated, but several consignments of sausage casings from Pakistan, not bearing official certificates as required, and one consignment from Iran, for which country no official certificate exists, have been exported.

Onchocerciasis (Worm Nodules).

Several small consignments of boneless briskets of beef from Australia have been examined in detail after partly defrosting. They varied from sound to 29 per cent. affected with onchocerciasis.

Bone Taint in Beef from Argentine.

During March of this year two consignments totalling 9,396 hind quarters of beef were landed in apparent good condition and were sent to local cold stores. At a later date examinations were made after some of the quarters had been cut through on a band saw, and bone taint was found to be prevalent. Finally the whole of these consignments were examined in full; 7,801 quarters were forwarded to depots outside Liverpool at the request of the Ministry of Food for examination under the supervision of local Medical Officers of Health, and the balance of 1,595 quarters were dealt with by this Authority. From these 1,595 quarters,

43·3 per cent. were found to be affected in varying degrees, and 45,276 lb. of meat were rejected and sent for industrial purposes.

Boneless Mutton, Ram and Lamb from Argentine.

Several consignments of boneless mutton, ram and lamb which contravened the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48, were landed during the latter part of the year. The meat was packed *en bloc*, varying from 90 lb. to 150 lb. each block, carried the recognised official certificate, and was in good general condition. A sample from each consignment was partially defrosted for detailed examination and was found to consist of either full sides or hind and forequarters, roughly boned out. In some cases the ribs, sternum bone and the pleura had been removed in one sheet in the boning out process, thus contravening the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48, First Schedule, B.

In other cases the ribs, sternum bone and the pleura appear to have been removed in one sheet, then the intercostal muscles with a portion of the pleura attached have been trimmed off the bones and included with the meat packed, plus a small quantity of scrapmeat which was not indentifiable with any definite part of a carcase, thus contravening the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48, First Schedule, A and B.

This matter was taken up with the Ministry of Food who have agreed to instruct the various packers of the meat that future consignments must comply with the Regulations.

Pork Trimmings from Argentine.

Two shipments of pork trimmings from Argentine arrived during December and were detained for examination in local cold stores. The meat was packed *en bloc*, averaging 90 lb. each block. Samples from each consignment were partly defrosted for detailed examination and were found to consist of pieces of pork weighing from 1 oz. to 16 oz. each piece, the great majority of which was not indentifiable with any definite part of a carcase, but otherwise in good condition. The recognised official certificate, as stencilled on the outer hessian type bag, was in most cases illegible owing to the poor quality of the material used as a bag, and the colour of the dye used in the stencil for manufacturing quality meat. The meat was obviously "scrap meat", and

as such was a contravention of the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48, First Schedule, A.

The question of the illegibility of the recognised official certificate was an added complication in view of the fact that Circulars issued by the Ministry of Food from time to time state that "recognition will only apply if the stamp is clearly impressed on the meat or the container, as the case may be".

These two consignments were eventually released on an understanding that no more meat of this type would be imported.

Fresh Milk from Northern Ireland.

Specially chartered steamers were engaged for a period of seven to eight weeks during August, September and October, in carrying about 20,000 gallons of fresh milk daily from Northern Ireland to this Port. The milk arrived in good condition and was regularly sampled for bacteriological and chemical analysis by the City Food and Drugs Department.

Public Health (Preservatives, Etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925/48.

Samples of various canned foods and dried fruits were taken and submitted to the City Analyst. No contraventions were noted.

Unsound and Damaged Cargoes.

A variety of unsound and damaged cargoes were dealt with as follows:—

s.s. "MOUNTPARK," @ AUSTRALIA. 9.3.1949.

125,000 bags of wheat flour were found to be infested with weevils, cocoons, and moth larvae, and were allocated for industrial uses and animal food.

m.v. "CONDESA," @ ARGENTINE. 23.3.1949.

About 5,700 quarters of frozen beef were landed tainted from fuel oil, were sent to local cold stores, deodorised, and later released for human consumption.

m.v. "BRISBANE STAR," @ AUSTRALIA. 6.4.1949.

Landed 8,364 tins of frozen whole egg which were examined in local cold stores. From these, 5.4 per cent. was rejected for decomposition and allocated for industrial purposes.

s.s. "LALANDE," @ BRAZIL. 3.5.1949.

257 bags of raw sugar were found to be damaged with aluminium paint. This sugar was sent to a local refinery where the paint was successfully removed.

m.v. "CLAN MACDONALD," @ AUSTRALIA. 20.6.1949.

251 boxes of frozen rabbit meat were landed and sent to local cold stores. On examination later, 20.3 per cent. of this consignment was rejected for internal decomposition, and was sent for industrial purposes.

s.s. "PAPANUI," @ NEW ZEALAND. 12.7.1949.

317 bags of frozen beef livers were landed and sent to local cold stores. Five per cent. of this consignment was defrosted for detailed examination, and from these livers 13.5 per cent. were found to contain multiple cysts, while many other livers had conical shaped cavities cut into the substance. This consignment was finally disposed of for pharmaceutical purposes.

m.v. "IMPERIAL STAR," @ AUSTRALIA. 13.7.1949.

Landed 141,000 boxes of apples from Tasmania. Some packs showed slight internal decomposition (brownheart).

One pack, consisting of 183 boxes, was found to be all more or less affected and was sent for destruction.

s.s. "GORJISTAN," @ IRAN. 16.8.1949.

Landed approximately 160,000 boxes of sultanas. One pack, consisting of 15,383 boxes, was found to contain numerous pieces of stone, resembling flint, some pieces with jagged and razor-sharp edges, embedded in the fruit. It was agreed with the importer that normal washing, as received in factories, bakeries, etc., would be unlikely to remove these stones and consequently some danger to public health might ensue unless some action was taken prior to allocation. It was finally arranged that the whole consignment of 15,383 boxes would be machine washed under pressure, passed over magnets to extract any metals, oven dried, and finally hand picked, under the supervision of this Authority, in a local warehouse specially equipped to carry out this type of work. The reconditioning was completed with a loss of weight equivalent to 6.38 per cent. of the total handled.

s.s. "BEAVERBURN," @ CANADA. 21.10.1949.

33,584 lb. of wheat with an admixture of glass splinters were allocated for poultry food.

s.s. "MEROE," @ TURKEY. 1.12.1948.

200 bags of walnuts in shell landed in a heated condition, and remained in a local warehouse. Finally, in May, 1949, the whole consignment was destroyed on account of mould and decomposition.

Several shipments of fruit cake in slabs from Australia were found to be mouldy and decomposing when landed. These were sorted under supervision in local warehouses, and the unsound portions used for animal food.

UNFOUND SUGAR AND INEDIBLE ANIMAL FATS.

1,341 tons 2 cwts. 0 qrs. 1 lb. of unfound sugar (loose-collected, sweepings, etc.) was dealt with during the year, and suitably disposed of to local Refiners for reconditioning.

65,921 packages, and 250 tons in bulk of inedible animal fats were dealt with during the year, and suitably disposed of for industrial purposes.

Table showing the quantity and description of unfound meats utilised under supervision* during the year 1949:—

DESCRIPTION.	TOTAL WEIGHT	CAUSE OF DESTRUCTION											
		Tuberculous.				Brine stained, mouldy and decomposed.				Other causes.			
		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.				
Beef	Tons cwts. qrs. lbs. 40 1 3 24	—	—	—	—	18	5	1	2	21	16	2	22
Mutton	4 14 0 7	—	—	—	—	4	5	2	6	—	8	2	1
Pork	— 8 1 9	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	9	—	—	—	—
Veal	— 2 0 17	—	—	—	—	—	2	0	17	—	—	—	—
Total	45 6 2 1	—	—	—	—	23	1	1	6	22	5	0	23

*These were destroyed or allowed to go for industrial purposes to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer.

Table showing the total quantities of the different unsound foodstuffs utilised under supervision during the year 1949 :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef, Mutton, Pork and Veal	45	6	2	1
Offal (Beef, Mutton, etc.)	14	6	1	17
Canned Goods	58	10	3	0
Fruit and Vegetables	851	8	2	14
Cereals	11,166	6	1	6
General (Fish, Poultry, Rabbits, etc.) ...	71	7	1	27
TOTAL	12,207	6	0	9

The following tables give the particulars of samples sent to the City Analyst and City Bacteriologist for examination during the year 1949 :—

CITY ANALYST.				CITY BACTERIOLOGIST.			
Hindquarter Beef...	...	...	1	Hindquarter Beef	...	...	1
Citrus Peel...	...	...	1	Water	...	...	18
Canned Vegetables	...	...	9				
			<u>11</u>				<u>19</u>
			<u>11</u>				<u>19</u>

In addition, 360 samples of goat hair, buffalo hair, black drawn bristle hair and wool were submitted for examination.

The Port Health Authority is also engaged in the issue of certificates of disinfection for foreign governments and other purposes in connection with the exportation of hides, wool, jute sacks and cloth, tailors' cuttings, rags, second-hand bags and clothing, bales of cotton, etc.

The department also endorses under the United States, Canadian and other regulations, certificates regarding wholesomeness of food articles, and the sanitary condition of the premises in which the articles are produced or stored, comprising poultry, game, cheese, bacon, hams, potatoes, preserved fish, pickled beef, tongues, sausage skins, lime juice, etc.

The work attached to preparing and recording these certificates is considerable, and takes up a large amount of time of the department.

I desire to express my appreciation of the valuable assistance received from H.M. Collector of Customs and staff, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board and their officers, and the various shipping companies who have co-operated with the Port Health Authority in the maintenance of Public Health and the prevention of disease in the port. The Consular Bodies have at all times given courteous assistance.

W. M. FRAZER,
Medical Officer of Health,
Liverpool Port Health Authority